

### Capital Gains Tax

motion with respect to the Excise Tax Bill. It is my intention to call the Ways and Means motions of the Minister as the first item of business on Monday. Following the calling of those motions, we will then proceed with the business as announced yesterday with respect to Monday, that is to say, we will deal with the Public Works Bill. I anticipate, with the co-operation of the House after discussion with the House Leaders, that we will be able to conclude all stages of that legislation at some point on Monday. When we do, we will be able to devote our full time and attention to the well-known Bill dealing with Investment Canada.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' business as listed on today's Order Paper.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Would the Chair be willing to not see the clock at five o'clock in order that whatever Member has a Bill today will be entitled to the full hour, and that we not see the clock until seven minutes after five?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

---

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS— MOTIONS

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Shall all items and orders preceding No. 160 stand by unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

\* \* \*

### INCOME TAX

#### SUGGESTED ABOLITION OF CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON FARM LAND

**Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills)** moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of abolishing the capital gains tax on *bona fide* farm land.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am indeed honoured to rise in this Thirty-third Parliament to propose my first Private Members' motion which, I may say, is exactly the same as the motion which I proposed in the Thirty-second Parliament, namely that the Cabinet should consider the advisability that capital gains tax be abolished on *bona fide* farm land. I was convinced then and I still am that it is in the national interest of Canada and of all citizens of Canada to have this motion passed. I believe that this time I have some reason to be genuinely optimistic. There is a new Government in place, so we have another chance. More evidence has been accumulated that capital

gains tax is harming the family farm. I will argue that it is harming the nation as a whole.

As well, the Government has indicated that it is prepared to establish a parliamentary committee. That likely is in the process. Therefore, it should be easy for the Government to accept this motion. I believe that Members of this House, particularly those who are familiar with the farm scene, and even those who are not, will realize soon that it is in the national interest that we not tax the family farm as we have been.

I commend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) for responding so quickly to the pressure put upon him to honour the campaign promise. I know from talking to many farmers that they are genuinely impressed that in the first 90 days so much has been done for the benefit of agriculture. In the West, they speak of the \$60 million so quickly provided to assist farmers because of the drought, and the \$120 million that went to grain producers through western grain stabilization. All producers across the nation will have started to benefit from the 4.8 cents per litre fuel tax not being imposed which otherwise they would have been faced with. Of course, the freeze in the freight rate helps the grain exporter.

• (1610)

The Farm Credit Corporation has put a freeze on foreclosures across the entire country until more time can pass and we can get a handle on the problem. The Farm Credit Corporation's interest rates have been lowered and, of course, the appeal board can now act as an intermediary between an individual farmer who may be in trouble and the financial institutions. That is of enormous benefit because the farmer can go before a group of his peers who will look at his problem. In cases where the farmer is a good manager but has financial problems for reasons often beyond his own control, the financial institution will very likely accept a decision made by his fellow farmers to give him a chance. By the same token, there are a few farmers who are in the position of having no hope at all. They will be more apt to accept a decision of their own peer group telling them that it is obvious they are not going to make it and that they had better spend their time doing something else.

Dual labelling has been enormously popular with the farm community. I wish to commend the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) for having taken those steps.

I would ask the special parliamentary committee that was set up to remember some of the broad facts when looking at this special exemption. There is a general law that imposes capital gains tax but there are certain exceptions in many cases. I am asking that *bona fide* farm land be placed under a special exemption so that capital gains tax is not imposed. That is done in all sorts of cases. For example, there is a general law that imposes income tax on all of us but there are exemptions for those who are married, for those with children and for those who are over a certain age. All of that adds to